The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Three - Nimai Pandit's Sankirtan Movement

Nimai Pandit Takes Sannyasa

Scene One - At Jaganath Misra's house

Vishupriya: Mother, what omen is it, when the left eye twitches? I am feeling very strange. Mother, where has my Lord, my husband, Nimai, gone to? What is the reason for such restlessness? Mother, hold me!

Saci: Darling, why do you fear!? My Nimai will soon return home.

Visnupriya: Mother, I cannot pacify my mind; I feel that I will never see Him again! Mother dear, I see everything shrouded in gloom what is all this!? What has happened to me?

Saci: O Providence, it is beyond me to fathom Your mind! What is happening to my daughter-in-law? Is another calamity to fall on us? Daughter! Go look after the household affairs. There, my Nimai is coming. And hush, dear! Should one even think of such inauspicious events?

Visnupriya: Mother, my mind does not even want to understand! Mother dear, I am so unfortunate; will my sweet, dear husband ever be really mine? I am in constant anxiety that I might forever lose sight of His lotus feet.

Saci: Go, my dear, perform your duties - cook Him some rice and vegetables.

Visnupriya: Yes, I will go to the kitchen right away; just let me go to see Him once more!

Saci: Can't you see Him from here? There He goes to His seat; go do your work.

Visnupriya: I'm going Mother. I wonder, will I ever possess the Treasure of my heart?
(She leaves. Nimai enters.)

Nimai: Mother, listen carefully, please! My mind is in intense turmoil - seeing the people everywhere in torment, I can no longer remain in the bliss of household life! I will go out to spread the glories of the Holy Names and quench my thirsting mind! Bless Me, Mother - at sunrise, I shall go forth.

Saci: Nimai! O Nimai! What are You saying? Where will You go? And, if You leave, what have I left to live for?

Nimai: Mother dear, I will become a sanyassi and live in loving devotion to Lord Krsna.

Saci: Alas! Why, oh why, do You kill Your mother?
(Saci Devi faints to the ground.)

Nimai: Mother! Mother, get up, dear Mother! Please do not cause a hindrance to such an august activity. Get up and bless Me in My endeavor. Do not resist this divine mission under the influence of family attachment.

Saci: Nimai, dear Nimai, what will happen to me? Darling, I will not let You go! Still, I say that if You leave, then You will be slaying Your own mother!

Nimai: Mother, restrain your tears! Why do you check this holy mission. Others may roam foreign countries to bring back jewels and wealth - but, for you, I will return with Krsna Prema, loving precipitation with Lord Krsna. Why, then, do you weep any more? A loving mother bids her son good bye even though he goes in search of insignificant, worldly treasures, while I, Mother, go to find life's goal -"love of Krsna." Would you obstruct My path? Understand, My dear Mother, I have borne the yoke of a human birth only to propagate this divine mission. If I should refrain now from My pursuit, great inauspiciousness will come upon all.

Saci: Alas, my Nimai, with what strength shall I remain further in this life? I possess but one binding to this world; why must You sever even that? Without You, this house will be like a forlorn forest. How am I to stay alone in a graveyard? O my darling, Nimai, do not strike thunder in my heart. Did I nurse You in my womb for this?

Nimai: My dear Mother, cry with the name of Krsna on your lips. Do not lament after "Nimai." Taking Krsna's Holy Names, you will not in any way loose Him. Do not cry, Mother - drive away your misconceptions. Know for certain, Mother, that Lord Krsna is the only absolute reality. Who in this world is one's own? You have had so many sons in your previous births and you have lost them all. The more you lament for the impermanent, deeper becomes one's delirium. So, do not cry. And, if at all, then cry out for Lord Krsna. Your Son, renouncing everything, will freely disperse the Holy Names of the Lord. How laudable is your good fortune, yet unmatched in this world.

My forefathers were all devotees of the Supreme Lord, Vishnu and, due to this piety, your Son has become a servant of the Supreme Lord. It is by the Supreme Lord's mercy that His Holy Names will be propagated through Me. This congregational chanting will inundate the universe in ecstasy - don't you want to make your Son responsible for such an honorific work? Shaking off the lower self, let me aspire after the pinnacle of human perfection, the Eternal.

Saci:But I am a woman and I am weak. A mother always laments the loss of a son

Nimai: There is nothing to lament, Mother. I shall bring you the prasadam petals that had previously adorned the lotus feet of our Lord Krsna. That is attainable by Lord Brahma, what to speak of the Vaisnavas. Why mourn for him who takes the infallible shelter of Lord Krsna's lotus feet? Do not discourage Me from this Perfection due to your weakness. I am a pauper, so I seek Lord Krsna's lotus feet.

Saci: O Nimai, my life will remain in my body as long as I can see Your face. Yet, You must go to attend the call of Divine Dispensation.

Nimai: Mother! One whose heart melts in compassion and cries, she is fortunate, for the Supreme Lord, Krsna, blesses her.

Saci: But alas for my daughter-in-law! Oh, how unfortunate she is -surely she will be as if thunder struck!

Nimai: Mother, I shall remain here for today. Then, honoring my commitment to the renounced order of life, I shall leave home, never to return.

Scene Two- At the House of Srivas Thakur

Adwaita: Alas! Alas! What is this we hear? Is it really so - the Gem of my heart, Gauranga Nimai is leaving us?! O Lord, why suddenly this calamity? How can we survive without our very life, our soul?

Srivasa: Come brothers, let us all go and beg Nimai to stay! The life of our soul, our beloved Gauranga Nimai is going from us! How can we live for a moment without seeing Him?

Jagai: Oh alas, Madhai, my brother, we are soon to be bereft of the association of our sweet Lord, Gauranga Nimai!

Madhai: Why should the pristine, moon-like Lord Nimai reside in a place contaminated by the birth of someone as desecrated and despicable as I am? I can only regret - what will become of me? Who will now give me shelter?
(Nimai Pandit enters)

Haridas: Please, what in Goodness' Name, has happened here? Have I committed any offense at the feet of my sweet Lord? Is it for this reason that the Lord is forsaking our company?

Let us all throw ourselves at the lotus feet of the Lord and cry "O Lord, What is happening to us? You are the protector of the poor, be compassionate

on us!" Come, let us go tonight - let us hold tight to the Lord's lotus feet!
(Nimai Pandit enters)

All: My Lord, my Lord! Why are You going away from Nadia! We beg You to stay!

Haridas: My Lord! I will not allow You to go to Vrndavana! The gopis in Vrndavan held fast to the wheels of Akrura's chariot, not allowing Lord Krsna to leave; so, also, all of us shall hold You back! Alas! Who can survive when bereft of the life of his life?

Nimai: Kindly listen, O Vaisnava devotees of Lord Hari, I have decided to go to a different lands and distribute the Lord's sublime Holy Names. Living entities everywhere are drowning in the distressful ocean of Nescience. I want to throw down to them the transcendental buoy of the Lord's lotus feet. I can no more bear to see the sorrow of general society!

All of you please glorify the Lord. Do not try to dissuade Me. Take Me in your embrace with a jolly smile. All of you please bless Me so that My yearnings meet success. Come. Come Nitai, taking the Holy Names on Your lips, look to the future. Let Me leave.
(Mother Saci enters)

Saci: O God! Would You let my Nimai become a sanyassi?
(She faints)

Nitai: Oh My Brother, look! Your mother lies on the ground!

Nimai: Avadhoot, why do You distract My intention?
(Saci Devi revives slowly.)

Nitai: Get up, Mother Saci! Put aside your illusion - cry for Krsna and you will get your Nimai!

Nimai: Mother, hold yourself. Truly, I say unto you, here and now, that I shall return here one day.

Saci: Hari, O Hari, my Savior from all danger, be merciful to this miserable mother. (to Nimai) I will not obstruct You if You agree to live in nearby Jagannath Puri. Pilgrims are always going back and forth between here and there, so there is a chance that I will get news of Your well-being.

Nimai: Mother, of course, I shall ever do as you order. (to devotees) Now, all of you, please, once more chant loudly the Hare Krsna Maha Mantra in order that I may fill My heart with it.

All: Haribol!! Haribol!!

(A barber enters to cut Nimai's hair. A sanyassi holds folded saffron cloth and a danda (staff) for Nimai. The devotees have a wonderful kirtan.)